

REMARKS

In the Action, the disclosure is objected to because the specification allegedly lacks section headings. Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to the Preliminary Amendment filed concurrently with the application, which includes an amendment to the specification adding section headings. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of this Preliminary Amendment and a copy of the stamped postcard indicating receipt by the Patent Office are attached. Accordingly, the objection to the specification should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Regarding the claims, claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner alleges that the claims do not conform to US practice.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the above rejection and assert that the claims are definite in scope. However, the grammar of the claims has been further clarified to improve upon the claim wording. It is noted that the grammatical changes are not made for reasons related to patentability and the full range of equivalents should remain intact.

Regarding the rejections based upon art, claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 USC Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura (US 6,264,412). Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Applicants' alleged admitted prior art (APA) in view of Nakamura. Lastly, dependent claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura or the alleged APA as modified by Nakamura as applied to claims 1 and 3, and further in view of Bramlet (US 5,827,285).

The foregoing rejections are respectfully disagreed with, and are traversed below.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a fastening and contact device to be mounted by means of an opening in a conductor that is in the form of a plate. The device comprises a sleeve inserted into the opening, the sleeve comprising shoulders that rest on a periphery of the opening of a first side of the plate. The device further comprises a ring mounted around the sleeve, the ring coming to rest against the periphery of the opening of a second side of the plate, wherein the sleeve and the ring are held in contact with the plate by a tightening means cooperating with the sleeve and a complementary device to be connected to the conductor.

Claims 2-7 depend from independent claim 1 and recite further advantageous features of the claimed fastening and contact device.

Thus, the subject invention concerns an electrical device having connection contacts.

In contrast, Nakamura belongs to a technical field without any link to the subject invention. In particular, Nakamura discloses a system for fixing construction panels in spacecraft. Those panels are made with a honeycomb material, and must be fixed without being significantly compressed. With reference to Figure 1 of Nakamura, the tubular element (13) has a length corresponding to the thickness of the cylindrical hole (12) made in the honeycomb panel. This prevents the honeycomb material from being exaggeratedly crushed.

There is no conductive elements or electrical conduction in Nakamura and, thus, Nakamura does not anticipate, nor even suggest, Applicants' claimed invention. In contrast to Nakamura, in embodiments of the subject invention a good electrical contact is provided between the plate (4) (with reference to Figure 1), and the other electrical elements, and especially the wing (6) of the plate (14). Consequently, the system is advantageously designed to exert a pressure as high as possible between the shoulders (8) of the sleeve (5), and the plate (4), with the pressure (15) exerted between the shoulder (8) and the ring (6) coming on the opposite face of the plate (4).

In further contrast to the honeycomb material of Nakamura, there is no risk to have the plate collapse by pressure. An extreme pressure will lead to a slight deformation of the metallic material used for those electrical elements, and an increase of the electrical contact surface.

Nor does the addition of any alleged APA with Nakamura disclose or suggest the subject claims as Nakamura relates to a system for fixing construction panels in spacecraft, which has no conductive elements or electrical conduction. Thus, there is no suggestion or reason to combine and modify Nakamura and any alleged APA in an attempt to arrive at the subject claims.

Similarly, the addition of Bramlet cited by the Examiner in rejecting dependent claim 4 does not cure the shortcomings noted above. For example, Bramlet relates to biological medical instruments and particularly to a fixation assembly for interconnecting two pieces of a fractured bone. Thus, there is also no reason one of ordinary skill in the art would combine and modify Bramlet with Nakamura and/or any alleged APA in an attempt to arrive at the subject claims.

It is further respectfully pointed out that while the Examiner generally alleges that the "APA discloses a buss bar system including a contact device, a conductor and a fastening device but, does not disclose the fastening device as claimed, " the Examiner does not specifically indicate where this alleged prior art is disclosed in the specification. Reconsideration and removal of the rejections based on any alleged APA is requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the application are patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable

reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted:

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In re U.S. Patent Application of:

APPLICANTS: Bisson et al.

SERIAL NO.: to be assigned

FILING DATE: Herewith

EXAMINER:

ART UNIT:

DOCKET NO.: 003D.0057.U1(US)

TITLE: Bus Bar Fastening and Contact Device

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is herewith filed in conjunction with the filing of a new U.S. Patent Application. Any fee required as a result of this Preliminary Amendment is attached. However, should the undersigned attorney be mistaken or should there be a fee deficiency, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-1924 for the amount of the deficiency.

Please amend the application as shown below.

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENT(S)

Please insert on page 1 between lines 1 and 2 FIELD OF THE INVENTION.

Please insert on page 1 between lines 8 and 9 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.

Please insert on page 3 between lines 2 and 3 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

Please insert on page 4 between lines 14 and 15 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS.

Please insert on page 5 before line 1 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.

ABSTRACT AMENDMENT(S)

Please amend the abstract of the application:

Fastening and contact device to be mounted on a plate provided with bus bars, said device ~~comprising~~ including a sleeve and a ring to be mounted through an opening of the plate. The sleeve ~~comprises~~ includes shoulders that come to rest on a first side of the plate, while the ring slides along the sleeve until it comes into contact with a second side of the plate. The plate is clamped between the sleeve and the ring when a tightening means cooperates with the sleeve and a complementary device to which the plate is connected.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A fastening and contact device (4) to be mounted by means of an opening (3) in a conductor that is in the form of a plate (2), said device comprising a sleeve (5) inserted into the opening, and such that the sleeve comprises shoulders (7) that come to rest on a periphery of the opening of a first side (4) of the plate, characterized in that it comprises a ring (6) mounted around the sleeve, this ring coming to rest against the periphery of the opening of a second side (10) of the plate, and in that the sleeve and the ring are held in contact with the plate by a tightening means (13) cooperating with the sleeve and a complementary device (14) to be connected to the conductor.
2. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, further characterized in that the sleeve has a passage (17) provided with a threading in order to cooperate with the tightening means.
3. (Currently Amended) The device according to one of claims 1 and 2, further characterized in that the passage comprises a stop (19) defining a place for receiving a screw head (18).
4. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 3, further characterized in that it comprises a retaining piece (23) to cooperate with

the geometry of the screw head and the inner geometry of the second part in order to impede the rotation of the screw.

5. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 4, further characterized in that the sleeve is cylindrical, that the opening is circular and that the shoulders form a thin collar projecting out on the first side of the plate.
6. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 5, further characterized in that at least one additional conductive layer (22) or insulating layer (24) of the conductor is disposed on the second side of the plate, and in that the length of the ring is defined as a function of the thickness of the additional layer.
7. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 6, further characterized in that the conductor is a conductive plate provided with bus bars.

DRAWING AMENDMENT(S)

Please replace the drawing sheet marked "Replacement Page". Reference no.
17 has been added to Figure 1.

REMARKS

This amendment removes the multiple dependencies and reference designators from the claims, places the abstract in U.S. filing format, and adds headings to the specification and replaces the drawing. The amendment was not made for reasons related to patentability, and the full range of equivalents for all of the elements of the amended claims, as well as for all of the other claims, should remain intact.

A favorable consideration that results in the allowance of all of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted:



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